for World Bank assisted State Health System Development Project which was sent to Planning Commission and other appraising agencies for comments. Comments have since been received and communicated to the State Government with a request to forward quickly a revised project proposal.

Eradication of Malaria

33. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps has his Ministry contemplated to control and eradicate Malaria from the country;

(b) what assistance has his Ministry given to Assam Government in this regard, especially when Malaria has taken toll of 100 people and has affected 50,000 people in Assam; and

(c) what steps his Ministry taken to punish the mosquito net racketeers of last year and whether these steps are effective?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Steps taken for prevention and control of Malaria are as under:—

1. Early Detection and Prompt Treatment (EDPT) of cases has been intensified by gearing up surveillance.
2. Facilities for detection and treatment of cases have been extended to the village level by involving community volunteers as Drug Distribution Centre (DDCs) and Malaria Link Volunteers (MLVs) in high-risk areas.
3. Rapid Diagnostic Kits for malaria case detection has been introduced for piloting.
4. Identification of referral centre for the management of severe and complicated malaria.
5. Providing alternative anti-malarials in Choloroquine resistant area.

6. Vector Control measures have been intensified by prioritization of areas for selective spray with appropriate insecticides and alternative vector control methods.

7. Newer and more effective alternative insecticides like synthetic Pyrethroids have been introduced in the programme.

8. Information Education and Communication (IEC) has been intensified and metropolitan cities like Chennai, Calcutta etc. have been given additional funds through Enhance Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support for IEC activities.

9. Hundred hard-core malaria and predominantly tribal districts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan and 19 malaria problematic towns in these States and States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have been included under EMCP for additional inputs for intensification of anti-malaria activities since September, 1997. Seven North Eastern States are being given 100% Central Assistance *w.e.f.* December, 1994.

10. Capacity Building and Management Information System are being strengthened in the country under EMCP.

11. Capabilities for Epidemic preparedness and rapid response are being strengthened.

(b) Under National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) 100% Central assistance to control Malaria is being provided to North Eastern States including Assam since December, 1994. During the last three years the following Central assistance (both case and kind) has been provided to the State Government:—

	(Rs. In lakhs)
1998-99	2170.42
1999-2000	2616.73
2000-2001	2657.87
2001-2002 (Allocated)	2994.28

(c) No information is available about mosquito net racketeers of last year. However, adequate checks are provided for ensuring quality of the goods procured under the Programme.

Ban on Public Smoking

34. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WHO has recently urged developing countries to adopt stringent measures including a ban on public smoking in view of tobacco related diseases/deaths;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on such remarks;

(c) whether the existing measures taken by Government to ban smoking have been found to be ineffective;

(d) the total funds provided by WHO for the care of patients affected due to tobacco diseases during the past three years; and

(e) the concrete steps Government propose to take to check tobacco related diseases/deaths in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) The consumption of tobacco has been established to be a major health hazard. Of the estimated three million tobacco related annual deaths in the world, nearly one third take place in our country. In view of the adverse impact of tobacco on health, all the Member States of the World Health Organisation resolved to implement tobacco control strategies through legislative means and increased public awareness. In view of the various recommendations and international experience in this regard, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare introduced a comprehensive legislation in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 for discouraging use of tobacco and its products. The sailent features of the Bill include prohibition of smoking in public places, ban on sale of tobacco products to minors and ban on advertisement of tobacco products. The Bill is under consideration of the Department related